

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 AID-05 IGA-02

EB-08 OMB-01 /092 W

-----221932Z 040403 /44

R 221510Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8712

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 1980

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SHUM, SG

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTING TO CONGRESS

REF: A. STATE 60208, B. DAKAR 1788

1. INITIAL SENEGALESE REACTION TO U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTING REQUIREMENT HAS BEEN LOW-KEY AND LARGELY POSITIVE. DIAKHA DIENG, CABINET DIRECTOR IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, QUESTIONED AMBASSADOR LAST WEEK OVER WIRE SERVICE REHURT THAT US HAD TERMED SENEGAL "PARTLY FREE" (AN ALLUSION TO QUOTATION IN DEPARTMENT REPORT FROM FREEDOM HOUSE STUDY ON SENEGAL). IN MARCH 17 MEETING WITH CHARGE, DIENG WAS BRIEFED ON BACKGROUND PROCEDURE AND CONTENT OF REPORT RECENTLY RELEASED. DIENG DISPLAYED NO SENSITIVITY OVER REPORT AND EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING FOR U.S. EFFORTS IN FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

2. SUBSEQUENT TO CONVERSATION REPORTED REF B, CHARGE MET ON MARCH 18 WITH DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS KANDE OF GOS FOREIGN MINISTRY. KANDE SAID GOS HAD NO PROBLEMS WITH STATEMENT ON SENEGAL PREPARED BY US. HE SAID THAT SENEGAL UNDERSTOOD WHAT US WAS ATTEMPTING TO DO WITH RESPECT TO HUMAN RIGHTS. THERE IS, HE SAID, NO ROOM FOR MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS.
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3. COMMENT: HAVING ENCOURAGED MULTI-PARTY POLITICAL SYSTEM, PARDONED POLITICAL OFFENDERS, TOLERATED GROWING FREEDOM OF PRESS, STRENGTHENED JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE, AND INTRODUCED OTHER INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES IN PREPARATION FOR 1978 PRESIDENTIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS, SENEGALESE OFFICIALS TAKE PRIDE IN LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD AND ARE CONFIDENT THAT

US CRITICISM WILL BE DIRECTED TOWARD REGIMES WITH LESS POSITIVE RECORD. END COMMENT.

4. REPERCUSSIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS, SUCH AS REJECTION OF US MILITARY AID BY LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN FACTUAL FASHION ON INSIDE PAGES OF SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS, BUT EMBASSY HAS SEEN NO LOCAL PRESS COMMENT ON US HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON SENEGAL.

5. EMBASSY NOW HAS RECEIVED CORRECTED TEXTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON SENEGAL AND WILL DELIVER THEM TO GOS OFFICIALS KANDE AND DIENG.
AGGREY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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